IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A method executable for maintaining the security of a cargo container during shipment from an origination point to a destination, wherein the cargo container comprises a container security unit (CSU) having a container identifier, the method comprising the steps of:

  receiving an electronic manifest for the cargo container, wherein the electronic manifest comprises an electronic listing of shipped contents placed in the cargo container at the origination point along with the container identifier;

  receiving an update from the CSU during the shipment of the cargo container, wherein the update comprises the container identifier, a first location of the container, and a status of the container;

  receiving an arrival report for the cargo container, wherein the arrival report comprises an electronic listing of contents of the cargo container received at the destination along with the container identifier; and

  processing the electronic manifest, the update and the arrival report ~~to thereby identify any security issues arising during shipment of the cargo container~~ wherein the processing step comprises comparing the listing of the contents placed in the cargo container with the electronic listing of contents received and identifying any discrepancies therebetween.

2.   (Original)   The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic manifest further comprises video images of the shipped contents.

3.   (Original)   The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of reviewing the video images if any security issues arise during the processing step.

4.   (Original)   The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic manifest, the update and the receive report are received via a digital network.

5.   (Original)   The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of receiving a second update from the container, wherein the second update comprises the container identifier and a second location of the container different from the first location of the container.

6.   (Original)   The method of claim 1 wherein the processing step comprises comparing the listing of shipped components with the listing of received components.

7.   (Original)   The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of assigning a numerical value to a threat posed by the cargo container in response to the processing step.

8.   (Original)   The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of triggering an alert when the numerical value exceeds a predetermined threshold.

9.   (Original)   The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of providing a status of the cargo container to an interested party in response to at least one of the receiving steps.

10.   (Original)   The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of billing the interested party for the providing step.

11.   (Original)   The method of claim 1 wherein the processing step comprises correlating the manifest, the update and the arrival report with the container identifier.

12.   (Original)   The method of claim1 further comprising the step of providing the electronic manifest to a verification authority during shipment to thereby allow the verification authority to verify the contents of the cargo container.

13.   (Currently Amended) A system for monitoring the security of a cargo container during shipment from an origination point to a destination, wherein the cargo container comprises a container security unit (CSU) having a container identifier, the system comprising:

    means for compiling a shipping manifest at the origination point, wherein the shipping manifest comprises a listing of the contents placed in the cargo container along with the container identifier;

    means for obtaining a status update from the CSU during shipment of the cargo container, wherein the status update comprises a location of the cargo container, a status of the cargo container and the container identifier;

    means for creating an arrival report at the destination, wherein the arrival report comprises an electronic listing of received contents of the cargo container and the container identifier; and

    means for processing information derived from the shipping manifest, the status update and the arrival report ~~to thereby identify any security issues arising during shipment of the cargo container,~~ including comparing the listing of the contents placed in the cargo container with the electronic listing of received contents, and identifying any discrepancies therebetween.

14.   (Original)   The system of claim 13 further comprising means in communication with the processing means for providing the information derived from the status update to an information user.

15.   (Currently Amended) A system operating in communication with a digital network for monitoring the security of a cargo container during shipment from an origination point to a destination, wherein the cargo container comprises a container security unit (CSU) configured to provide a container status and a container identifier, the system comprising:

> a plurality of container processing systems, each having a report generator and an interface to the digital network, wherein the report generator is operable to compile a an electronic manifest of contents placed in the cargo container along with the container identifier;

> a plurality of container status systems, each having an interface to the digital network and a wireless interface configured to communicate with the CSU to thereby obtain the container identifier and the container status during shipment of the cargo container; and

> a central server configured to communicate with the plurality of container processing systems and the plurality of container status systems via the digital network to monitor the cargo container from the origination point to the destination and to identify any security issues arising during shipment of the cargo container, and wherein the central server is further configured to obtain a first electronic manifest from one of the plurality of container processing systems located at the origination point and to compare the first electronic manifest with a second electronic manifest obtained from a second one of the plurality of container processing systems located at the destination, and to electronically identify any discrepancies between the first and second electronic manifests.

16.   (Original)   The system of claim 15 wherein each of the container status systems further comprise a hazard detect system configured to detect hazardous materials located in the cargo container.

17.   (Cancelled).

18.   (Original)   The system of claim 15 wherein each of the container processing systems comprise a wireless reader configured to obtain information about the contents of the cargo container.

19.   (Original)   The system of claim 18 wherein the wireless reader is an RFID reader.

20.   The system of claim 15 wherein at least one of the plurality of container processing systems comprises a digital camera configured to obtain images the contents of the cargo container.

21.   (Original)   The system of claim 20 wherein the camera is a video camera.

22.   (Original)   The system of claim 20 wherein the manifest comprises the images of the contents.

23.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15 wherein the central server comprises a risk analysis engine ~~configured to provide a score associated with the cargo container, wherein the score is related to a level of security risk associated with the cargo container~~.

24.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 23 wherein the risk analysis engine is further configured to trigger an alarm ~~if the score exceeds a pre-determined threshold~~ <u>in response to data received from the plurality of container processing systems and the plurality of container status systems</u>.

25. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 23 wherein the central server further communicates with an enterprise system, and wherein the central server is operable to notify the enterprise system in the event of an enterprise action.

26. (New) The system of claim 15 wherein each of the container processing systems comprise a wireless reader configured to automatically obtain information about the contents of the cargo container and wherein the report generator is further configured to automatically compile the electronic manifest of contents placed in the cargo container from information obtained from the wireless reader as items are placed in the cargo container.